THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No project reports for development of township on different rivers in Maharashtra have been received in this Ministry. However, the Government of Maharashtra has submitted river pollution abatement projects reports for Kolhapur town along river Panchganga (costing Rs. 49.74 crore) in the year 2002, and in the year 2004 for Wai town along river Krishna (costing Rs. 53.83 crore), Pandharpur town along river Bhima (costing Rs. 26.61 crore), Prakasha town along river Tapi (costing Rs. 4.62 crore), Paithan town along river Godavari (costing Rs. 12.80 crore), and Nawapur town along river Rangawali (costing Rs. 4.55 crore) for approval under the National River Conservation Plan during the Tenth Five Year Plan. These projects could not be considered for approval due to constraint of funds during the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, it was suggested that the State Government may undertake these projects out of the State Plan provisions by seeking necessary funds from the Planning Commission including exporing the possibility of initiating the projects with public-private partnership.

(d) Does not arise.

Vaippar-River-Linking Project

1861. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal for the Vaippar-River-Linking project pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government conducted detailed studies on the impact of such a project would have on the environment in the Southern Kerala;

(d) whether Government considered the fact that most of the related areas in Kerala experience acute water shortage particularly in the summer season;

(e) if so, whether the projects, if implemented, further accelerate the situation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIORNMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has prepared a freasibility report of transferring surplus water of Pamba and Achankovil rivers in Kerala to Vaippar basin in Tamil Nadu in 1995. In view of the Resolution dated 6.8.2003 adopted unanimously by the Kerala legislative Assembly urging the Central Government to give up the Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar Link project completely. The Ministry of Water Resources has decided not to treat Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar Link as a priority link for consensus building purpose.

(c) No such detailed study has been conducted by the Ministry of Enviornment and Forests or by NWDA.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Problems in development activities undertaken by State Governments

1862. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints that on account of court judgements under environment and forest laws, certain development activities undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by various States Governments are suffering;

(b) whether the Government has decided to take any remedial action in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to amend any legislation in this regard or propose to bring in any fresh legislation; and

(d) whether Government propose to approach the Supreme Court of India for review/modification of any of the judgments of the court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No specific complaints have been received as such. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has received representations, from time to time, regarding difficulty in implementing development plans in view of some court judgments and judicial interpretations in the environment and forestry related cases.